

well established institutional herbaria there) sent material of their more interesting plants or their puzzles to Torrey, Gray or Engelmann. It thus happens that great series of Illinois specimens are in the larger and older herbaria which, it would seem, were not critically canvassed in order that the already well accredited species of that state might be personally examined. In studying a single small genus I recently had before me the material from some of our larger herbaria. These showed from Illinois specimens from 33 botanists: in the Gray Herbarium alone from Babcock, Bebb, Benke, Wm. Boott, T. E. Boyce, V. H. Chase, Clokey, Eggert, Gleason, Greenman, Lapham, McDonald, Mead, E. J. Palmer, Patterson, Pease, Ridgway, Schneck, Seymour, Sherff and Umbach; while the Engelmann Herbarium had Illinois material from most of the same botanists as well as from Edgar Anderson, Bauer, Beckwith, Hitchcock, McCree and Pammel; the Torrey and Britton Herbaria material from many of the same collectors and from some others; the Philadelphia Academy similarly; while Duke has the very extensive Illinois herbarium of A. B. Seymour; the National Herbarium, Illinois material of many already cited, as well as of many others, including Crampton, Earle and Steele.

Nevertheless, some very local and not recently collected species are admitted and one which is "probably extinct". There seems no satisfactory excuse for the omission of any mention of 200 others, except what may be politely called lack of information, and for not examining (since that was a prerequisite) the larger and often older herbaria of the country for Illinois material of Bebb, Clokey (especially his own vast herbarium), Eggert (particularly at St. Louis), Gleason (largely at New York), Lapham, Mead, Palmer (very largely at St. Louis and at the Arnold Arboretum and, of course, in his extensive private herbarium), Pease, Ridgway (largely at the Arnold Arboretum and the Gray Herbarium), Seymour (his great herbarium at Duke), and many others. It is too bad that the old collections and records were not thoroughly checked.—M. L. FERNALD.

GERANIUM NEPALENSE, var. THUNBERGII IN MASSACHUSETTS.
—Last summer, while walking by an arbor-vitae hedge on my brother's place in Wellesley, I noticed a large patch of an unusual looking *Geranium* growing along the foot of the hedge and, on further examination, found it to be an abundant weed in a nearby garden. Being unable to find it mentioned in Gray's Manual or Britton & Brown, I took it to the Gray Herbarium, where Professor Fernald kindly identified it for me as *Geranium nepalense* Sweet, var. *Thunbergii* (Siebold & Zucc.) Kudo, a Japanese variety of a wide-spread Asiatic species not before reported from North America.

Later on, when I showed it to my brother, his only comment

was: "That thing a rare plant! Why, I have been trying to weed it out of my garden for the last five or six years without success".

Professor Fernald has supplied the following description of *Geranium nepalense*:

Plant with stout rhizome; slender stems depressed or decumbent at base, prolonged to 4 dm., retrorse-hirsute; petioles similarly hirsute; larger (lower) leaf-blades with 3 or 5 deeply incised divisions; axillary peduncles up to 8 cm. long, with the usually 1 slender pedicel retrorse-hairy; the spreading-pubescent lanceolate sepals with a terminal mucro about 1 mm. long; the broadly obovate entire petals about equaling or but slightly exceeding the sepals; fruit about 1.7 cm. long, hirtellous, the short beak puberulent.

Var. *Thunbergii*, the Japanese variety which is established at Wellesley, has the divisions of the leaf only shallowly and bluntly toothed at summit, and the pedicels are usually 2.—FRANCIS WELLES HUNNEWELL, Wellesley, Mass.

SORBUS ANDERSONI, A NEW NAME FOR AN ALASKAN MOUNTAIN-ASH.—*Sorbus alaskana*, described by the writer in 1939 from material collected near Lake Iliamna, Alaska, by M. W. Gorman in 1902, and subsequently by several other botanists in a number of other Alaskan localities, can not be correctly designated by that name. Mr. J. P. Anderson of Iowa State College has drawn my attention to the fact that the name *Sorbus alaskana* had been previously used for a fossil species by Arthur Hollick in 1930. I therefore take the opportunity to rename the living plant in honor of Mr. Anderson, who for many years has studied the botany of Alaska, and whose flora of that region is now being published serially by his college.

SORBUS **Andersoni**, nom. nov. *S. alaskana* G. N. Jones in Journ. Arnold Arboretum **20**: 24, pl. 226. 1939, non Hollick in U. S. G. S. Prof. Paper **159**: 97. 1930.

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